(iii) Adoption of specialised technologies such as ERD, horizontal and drain hole drilling, scale removal treatment jobs & long drift side tracking of wells.

(iv) Implementation of new schemes of oil/gas development.

(v) Improving the recovery percentage from the producing fields.

(vi) Reducing R/P ratio of fields having high R/P.

(vii) Installation artificial lift and stimulation of wells.

(viii) Intensive and extensive exploration including in frontier areas and deep waters

to augment reserve base

(d) and (e) During the year 1997-98, the details of acquisition of seismic data by ONGC/ OIL /Private /Joint Venture firms were as under:

	ONGC	OIL	Pvt/JV
Onshore 2D	4568	1112 SLKM 359 GLK	1055.5
3D	11744 GLK	166 SQKM	—
Offshore 2D	1910 LK	—	527 GLK
3D	8244 LK	—	112 SSK

News-Item captioned "Ban Fails to Curbs sale of illegal LGP Cylinder"

2737. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-items appearing in Hindustan Times dated 2nd December, 1998 captioned "Ban fails to curb sale of a legal LPG cylinder."

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether massive sales of illegal LPG cyclinders claim many lives every year;

(d) if so, the number of deaths during the last three years, year-wise and

(e) what concrete steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAY): (a) The news paper article captioned "Ban fails to curb sale of a illegal LPG cylinder" in Hindustan Times dated 2.12.98 is regardinnig illegal manufacture of LPG Cylinders despite ban of the same by the Government and various checks and measures to curb such activities. The article highlights serious LPG accidents on account of sale of spurious equipment.

(b) to (e) No. case of illegal units manufacturing LPG cylinder for PSU Oil Companies has been reported. The following number of deaths occurred during last three years in connection with accidents relating to LPG cylinders and use of LPG,

Year	No. of Deaths
1995-96	44
1996-97	72
1997-98	45

Oil companies carry out elaborate quality control checks on each cylinder filled at the bottling plants. After passing all the quality control checks at the LPG bottling plants, each and every cylinder is sealed before it is loaded and despatched to the LPG distributors. Oil companies use aluminium and PVC seals to ensure that the LPG cylinder are not tampered with before they are delivered to the consumers. Many accidents, occur on account of unauthorised and irregular use and handling of LPG cylinders.

Stealing of Diesel From Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline

2738. SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that diesel worth of crores of rupees is being stolen from the 1443 km. Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline of the Indian Oil Corporaton;

(b) whether there is a thieving racket involving a well oiled network of smugglers operating between Kandla port and Radhapur off the Pakistan border and they are hand in glove with the local Police and some Indian Oil Corporation officials; and

(c) whether Government proposes to have a computerized detection system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There have been 17 incidents of pilferage and total loss of diesel due to pilferage is estimated at Rs. 3.982 crores. The matter of pilferage incidents have been taken up promptly with the Government of Gujarat by IOC. Government has also taken up the matter with Government of Gujarat. Preliminary inquiry has not revealed involvement of any officer of Indian Oil Corporation. However, inquiry has been instituted by IOC to examine whether any IOC official is involved.

(c) Computerized detection system has been planned to detect leakage.

Exploration works of Petroleum and Natural Gas in N.E. States

2739. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are neglecting the exploration works of the petroleum and natural gas in the North Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the exploration work will be started in the area of Manipur and other hilly region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) ONGC & OIL are continuing the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the entire North Eastern Region including Manipur and other hilly region. ONGC has already carried out about 2781 LKM (Semi Detailed Mapping equivalent) of geological mapping and gravity magnetic surveys in Manipur state.

Further, in order to accelerate pace of exploration, the Government has been offering exploration accreages in different parts of India including Manipur and other Hilly region of the North East under the Exploration Bidding rounds for private participation. Fourth round onwards, of the several blocks offered in N.E. region, one block viz. AA-ON-1 measuring 25200 sq. km. covering most of the areas of Manipur was offered under VI, VII & VIII rounds. Several other blocks also extended to parts of Manipur.

विवेकाधीन कोटे से गैस कनेक्शनों का आवंटन

2740. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी** : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक द्वारा अपने विवेकाधीन कोटे से गैस के कितने कनेक्शन आवंटित किए गए थे, उनका राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(क) पिछली सरकार के कार्यकाल के दौरान मंत्रियों एंव अधिकारियों द्वारा अपने विवेकाधीन कोटे से गैस के कितने कनेक्शन आवंटित किए गए थे, उनका राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ख) वर्तमान सरकार ने अपने कार्यकाल के प्रथम छह महीनों के दौरान इस कोटे से कितने कनेक्शन जारी किए हैं और उसमें मंत्रियों द्वारा कनेक्शनो की प्रदेश-वार संख्या क्या है तथा अधिकारियों द्वारा संस्तुत कनेक्शनों की प्रदेश-वार संख्या क्या है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार) : (क) वर्ष, 1996 तथा वर्ष, 1997 के दौरान मंत्रालय द्वारा बिना बारी आधार पर जारी किए गए एलपीजी कनेक्शनों की संख्या नीचे दी गई है:-